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THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu • Volume 79, Issue 28 • May 1, 2002

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Leaders of the New School

President and Vice President Henrick Maison and Erica Hughes have plans to restructure SGA

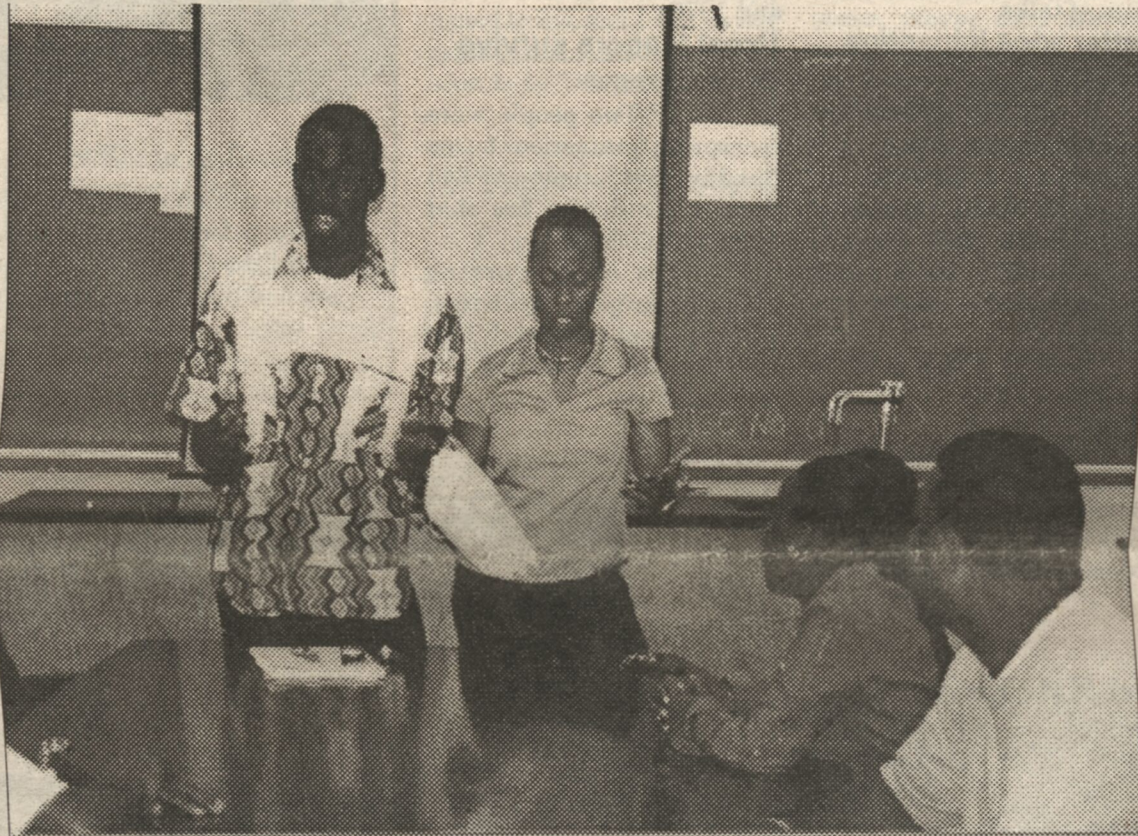
By **Tenesia S. Mathews**
Editor-in-Chief

With all the negative press surrounding Prairie View A&M University, it will take some strong and steadfast leaders to move students in a positive direction. Now with basically a whole new body of leaders at the helm of the Student Government Association, the leaders have an agenda for PV students.

For Prairie View students, Henrick Maison, Erica Hughes, Cristina Lee, and Michael Davis have all been chosen to lead and they have very efficient plans that will essentially work with a lot of teamwork and dedication.

"My basic goal is to revolutionize the SGA to make them accountable, stronger and responsible," said Henrick Maison.

Henrick wants to take all the problems plaguing students one step at a time. "We have to pick our battles, and we also have to have all the information needed to fight these battles,"



President and Vice President Henrick Maison and Erica Hughes speak to students about issues facing Prairie View A&M University.

replied Maison.

Along side Maison is a staff that plans to support their SGA President. Vice President Erica Hughes has not only dedicated herself to the issues that students are facing today, but she also has plans to support Maison in this fight for equality for students. "I plan to support Henrick's platform, and I also want to keep the lines of communication open with the administration," Hughes stated. After all is said and done, these future leaders of America and present leaders of Prairie View want to have a successful term in office.

Passing the buck would usually be negative, but former SGA President Ronnie Davis said, "There were some things that I wish I could have gotten accomplished, but overall we completed our platform. Henrick is capable of doing a better job as SGA president. There are many factors that can and will determine how good he will be."

The Essence of Pantherland

Mr. & Miss Prairie View A&M University pageant gets rave reviews



Mr. & Miss Prairie View 2002-2003,
La Darryl Hopkins and Nella Mupier



By **Aqueelah Anderson**
Advertising Manager

On Wednesday, April 24, 2002 Prairie View A&M University crowned their new Mr. and Miss Prairie View A&M University.

The 33rd annual Miss Prairie View and the 16th annual Mr. Prairie View pageant gave three dynamic men and five sophisticated ladies a chance to gain the crown to represent the university.

"The pageant was extremely nice and well produced. The candidates were all exciting and dynamic individuals whom I am proud to have represent my university," said

Keleigh Felder, the mistress of ceremony.

Each contestant was rated according to their per-

formance personal interview 30%, talent 35%, evening gown/formal wear 10%, im-

See Pageant page 5

COMING NEXT WEEK

Have a great summer!!!

Summer School begins May 28, 2002

Make sure that you have signed your Award Letters for Financial Aid.

INSIDE

Kalyn Bullock says good bye to Prairie View Page 3

Prairie View aids in propane fueled van page 4

Lisa "LeftEye" Lopes is remembered. page 7



WEATHER

Greater Houston Area forecast
Thick cloud cover: High 90,
Low 75. Hot! Hot! Hot! Hot!

•State•

**Jesus statue violating
Huntsville, Texas**

AP- Faith is literally getting in the way for New Waverly resident Evelyn Blazek. Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation say the 83-year-old woman's 17-foot statue of Jesus is violating state right-of-way laws with its location on Highway 105 East. "We are working with her to come up with a solution," said David Stephens, a TxDOT area engineer.

Battaglia murder trial

Dallas, Texas

AP-Jurors in the capital murder trial of John Battaglia listened Monday to a taped phone call that recorded a mother's anguished moments before finding out her two daughters had been shot to death.

"I'm so scared, I'm so scared," said Mary Jean Pearle, who talked with Highland Park officer Catherine Justice on a cell phone while waiting outside the apartment where the girls' bodies were found.

•World•

**Arms reductions talk
Moscow, Russia**

AP- Russia's defense minister said Monday that his government had set out new ideas that could advance talks toward a nuclear arms reduction agreement by the May summit between U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld refused to provide details of the ideas or the two hours of talks.

Blatter wins injunction

Tokyo, Japan

AP- FIFA President Sepp Blatter has won a court injunction to prevent an opponent from repeating accusations that Blatter offered bribes to obtain votes, the world soccer body said Monday.

FIFA said a court in Meilen, close to Zurich, awarded an interim injunction against Farah Addo, president of the Somali Football Association. Calls to the courts were unanswered.

•National•

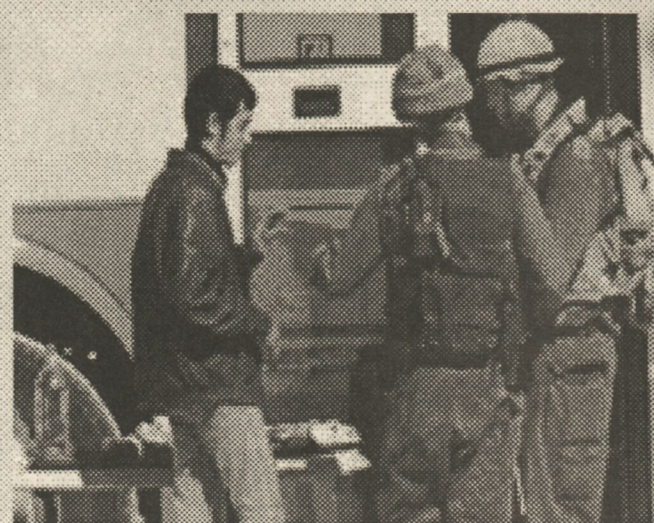
**Priest dismissals
San Bernadino, Ca**

AP-Four Roman Catholic priests from the San Bernardino Diocese left their parishes over the weekend amid allegations they molested children, it was announced during Sunday Mass. In another development, the Los Angeles Archdiocese has turned over to police the name of a 69-year-old priest forced to retire earlier this year because of allegations he molested four boys in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Great leapers survive
Salem, Oregon**

AP-Two people were recovering from serious burns Sunday after jumping 17 feet from a townhouse fire that reached 1,000 degrees.

The early morning blaze destroyed the three-story house so completely that investigators could not pinpoint a cause.

Around the world.....

AP Photo by Lefteris Pitarakis

A Palestinian youth shows Israeli soldiers his documents before entering a bus, shortly after he walked out of the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Tuesday.

**The
Panther**

Prairie View A&M University's
official student publication

The Panther is a publication supported through advertising and student activity fees. Views expressed within the publication are not necessarily those shared by Prairie View A&M University or the Texas A&M University Board of Regents. All articles, photographs and graphics are property of The Panther.

Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

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for Letters to the Editor

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A Whole New World**Kayln says Goodbye to PVAMU**

By Kayln Bullock
Managing Editor

As we embark on the closing of the school year, I begin to wonder what would be in store from hence on. Graduation is rapidly coming, and then it's just me against the world! Being here at Prairie View A&M University had changed me a person. It taught me how to network,

enhanced my communication and presentation skills, and most of all it has taught me to be a warrior, in order to tackle any trials that have come my way.

I have learned that it is important to be involved in the school community. Since my freshman year 1998, I have a member of The Panther staff. I started as a reporter, and now I am the managing editor, which is a position that I enjoy. Being a member of The Panther, I feel has allowed me to address issues concerning the student body and myself. Many times I have been asked why do I choose to be a part of The Panther, being an electrical engineering major, and when do I find time to do it? To be honest, I love to write, I love to express myself, and I love being a part of a progressive group of people. Timing can be an issue, but like all things, "We truly find the time for things we like to do."

One thing that I would like to encourage my fellow Panthers to do is to get involved, and "Don't take 'no' for an answer without an explanation."

All that glitters isn't gold

Dear Editor,

Over the past couple of months Prairie View students have literally been played by "upstanding" citizen's of the community as they vie for political positions in the city of Prairie View, Texas.

Elections of any type are important and deserve the upmost respect and participation. However, as a challenge to students don't be easily lead. City politics (i.e. Justice of the peace, mayor etc.) are very much separate from university system regulations. DO YOUR RESEARCH.

Elected city officials have influence on only those issues dealing with the city. Yes, the university is in the city of Prairie View - but we are subject to the laws and decisions of the Texas A&M University and not that of the influence of a city leader.

For example, research shows that students at the University of Houston and other American Campus Life-

styles housing residents pay a significantly higher account than what students here at Prairie View pay. And some universities still have student residents living in dormitories.

I am not saying that our system is great, but research counts. As we all know, PVAMU counts for at least 70 - 80% of the voting population of Prairie View and each and every one of our votes count.

Please do your civic duty and vote for the candidate that has been with us, the one that our grievances as well as all the good things we as students have to offer. Vote for the candidate that seeks to do good for the Prairie View community.

Remember that all smiles are not friendly smiles and all that glitters is not all gold. My idea is for us, a student body, not to be used and/or mislead by falsities and deception as we strive to make our university a better, more productive, and beautiful place.

Thanks,
A concerned student

*Words to live by,
"Live for today
and Pray about
tomorrow."*

Tenesia S. Mathews

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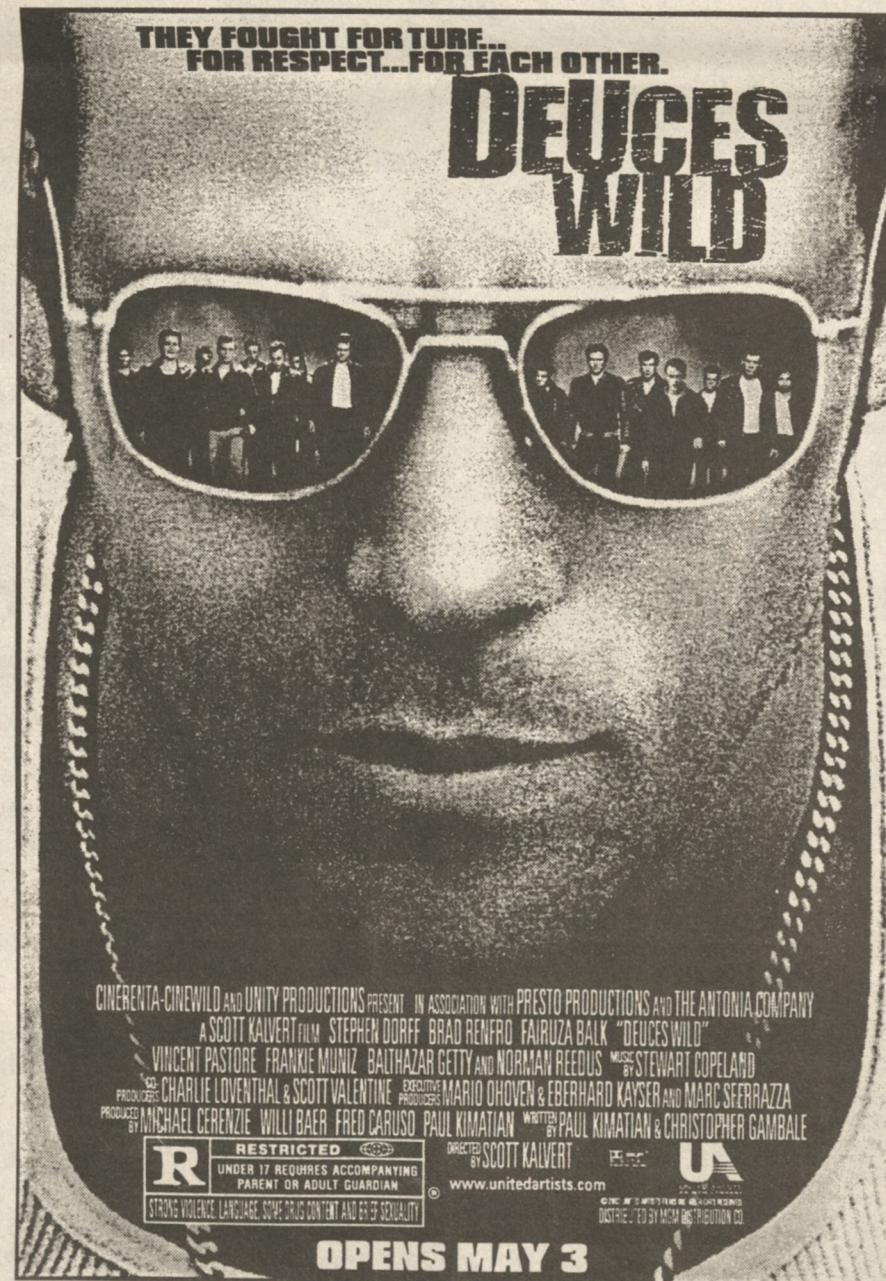
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Williams promotes propane-fueled van project

Press Release
Special to the Panther

When most Texans think of transit, they probably think of big cities and full size bus fleets, but urban transit is only part of the picture.

Forty-one rural transit agencies operate in Texas. Their territories range in size from two square miles in the town of South Padre island to the 26 counties served by Panhandle Transit in northwest Texas. In addition, 28 small city transit agencies serve Texas communities with less than 200,000 people.

The Texas Department of Transportation is moving toward encouraging all Texas transit agencies to start using cleaner-burning alternative fuels like propane and natural gas.

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) Chairman

Michael L. Williams, an advocate of alternative fuels use, supports that approach. Chairman Williams took some time Friday to introduce area reporters to the ProCon/General Motors Savana van, a full sized propane-powered vehicle Williams says will be the right fit for many transit agencies seeking alternatives to gasoline and diesel.

"I'm pleased to be at the Prairie View campus celebrating the part the university played in developing this van- a vehicle that runs on a Texas- produced clean fuel, benefits our air quality and can help reduce our dependence on Middle East oil," Williams said.

The propane Savana is certified to stringent federal ILEV (Inherently Low Emission Vehicle) and California ULEV (Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle) standards.

Chairman Williams' involvement with the project started during his chairmanship of the Texas Alternative Fuels Council (AFC). In 2001, the AFC unanimously voted to help develop the van as a way to fill a gap in the state's growing fleet of low-emission alternative-fueled vehicles.

Prairie View A&M's role in the project related to safety. The University's College of Engineering evaluated the mechanical integrity and retention system of the van's fuel tank after the conversion from gasoline to propane.

The evaluation concluded that under normal driving conditions, the fuel tank attachment was good for 150,000 miles.

Besides the Alternative Fuels Council and Prairie View A&M University, the team that developed the propane van includes Clean Fu-

eling Technologies of Georgetown, Texas, General Motors Corporation, the Propane Education and Research Council, Washington, D.C., the Propane Promotion Consortium of Golden, Colorado, Quantum Technologies of Cerritos, California, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The propane Savana can carry 12-15 passengers or be set up for cargo. It can be equipped with wheelchair lifts or other specialty equipment required by rural transit fleets, airports, airport shuttle operators, taxi companies, schools or public agencies and is available for purchase on state contract.

The Railroad Commission's Alternative Fuels Research and Education Division can run a complete economic analysis free of charge for any fleet, using the fleet operator's own estimates

of initial cost, fuel cost, mileage and other factors. For more information contact the RRC's Alternative Fuels Division toll free at (800) 64-CLEAR.

www.rrc.state.tx.us/commissioners/williams/williams.html

Former Governor George W. Bush appointed Michael Williams to the Railroad Commission in December 1998. In September 1999, he was chosen by his colleagues to chair the Commission. Williams was elected statewide in November 2000 for a term expiring in 2002.

He is the first African-American in Texas history to hold an elected position in the executive branch of Texas state government and is currently the highest-ranking African-American in the state.

Ebon Dialect takes top priority

Press Release
Special to the Panther

Ebon Dialect, the internationally recognized, award-winning, poetry journal published by the Department of Languages and Communications will hold its 2002 publication party on Wednesday, May 1, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the public events room of Coleman Library.

The journal is an outlet for Prairie View A&M student poets including faculty and graduates to publish their original poetry.

Senior English major J.C. Williams, this year's journal editor, says that the current issue has approximately 40 poems by 31 student poets.

Everyone is invited to come hear students read their poems and get a copy of the newly published journal.

The introduction of the current edition is written by Dr. E. J. Thomas-Smith, who is university provost and vice president of academic affairs. Dr. Thomas-Smith is

former head of the English department. Faculty advisors include Prof. William Chapman, Dr. Bee Jay Freeman, and Robert R. Jones III, all members of the English faculty. Additionally, Keitrick Williams, editor of the 2001 publication offered technical support for the project.

Pageant from page 1

promptu interview 15%, and swimsuit and sport active wear was worth 10%.

After all was said and done 2nd runner-up was Juddara Moss, 1st runner-up Kymbrel Mosley, and Nella Mupier was crowned the new 33rd Miss Prairie View A&M University.

La Darrell Hopkins was crowned as the 16th annual Mr. Prairie View A&M University, Roshon George 1st runner-up and Joshua Edwards was 2nd runner-up. Senior L'Rhonda Boyd said, "Overall I thought the pageant was well organized and the contestants were prepared."

Texas moves closer to historic change Political race puts Texas on the map

By Matt Curry
Associated Press Writer

A year after Gov. Rick Perry appointed the first black to serve on the Texas Supreme Court, history could be made again.

If state District Judge Dale Wainwright and Supreme Court Justice Wallace Jefferson win their respective races in November, the historically white nine-member panel will have two blacks for the first time.

The possible milestone has been overshadowed in a year in which Ron Kirk, the first black man nominated from Texas for the U.S. Senate, leads an ethnically diverse Democratic ticket.

Both Wainwright, 40, and Jefferson, 38, are Republicans who tout conservative credentials for the Supreme Court. Jefferson was appointed earlier this year and must run for election to finish his term.

Democrats may receive

more attention for their diverse set of candidates, but both political parties see a bright future with the inclusion of minorities, said Austin consultant Bill Miller.

"You see it on the Democratic side with the 'Dream Ticket.' You see it on the Republican side with the potential unprecedented representation of African-Americans on the Supreme Court," Miller said.

"Both sides are putting value in recruiting and helping qualified minority candidates, and both parties are acting like they recognize the obvious truth," he said.

"Their longtime success has got to be built on diversity and helping and attracting minority candidates and assuring they're successful in their elections."

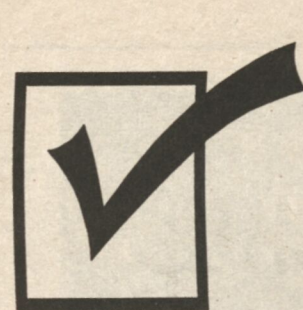
It was only last year, 136 years after the end of the Civil War, that Perry named Jefferson, a descendant of a slave, to become the first black to serve on the court.

He cleared his initial electoral hurdle in March, defeating lawyer Sam Lee, and advanced to the November race against Democrat William E. Moody.

Wainwright finished second in the March primary. Backed by Texans for Lawsuit Reform, which favors measures restricting personal injury lawsuits and damage awards, and the Texas Medical Association's political action committee, he defeated fellow Houston District Judge Elizabeth Ray in a contentious April runoff.

Wainwright, the first black Republican to win the nomination without first having been appointed to fill a Supreme Court vacancy, said getting the best people for the job is most important.

If the winners are minorities, that's just "icing on the cake."



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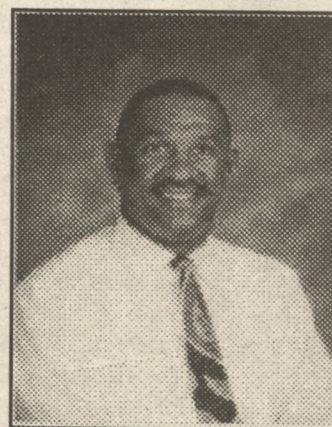
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Who should be MVP?



By Marvin Anderson
Sports Editor

Now that all of the preliminary awards have been issued (Sixth Man, Rookie of the Year, and the All-Defensive Teams) all sports fanatics await to find out who will be the MVP?

The candidates are San Antonio power forward Tim Duncan, New Jersey's Jason Kidd, Orlando's forward Tracy McGrady, and Boston's Paul Pierce.

Duncan (25ppg, 12rpg, 3.7apg) is a consistent double-double threat every night.

Kidd (14ppg, 7rpg, 9apg) has taken the Nets from worst to first in one season.

McGrady (25ppg, 7rpg, 5apg) has carried the Magic into the playoffs without much help.

Pierce (26ppg, 6rpg, 3apg) has lead the Celtics' resurgence into the playoffs, but he won't get much credit due to the play of fellow superstar and teammate Antoine Walker.

My pick for MVP is Kidd.

Kidd has made the best of an extremely bad situation and provides excitement, gets his teammates involved, and almost averaged a triple-doubles.

T-Mac is a close second.

McGrady dominates games and wins with little to no help.

If Kidd does not win the award, it will be the worst to come out of an election since Bush-Gore.

LAKERS DOMINATE BLAZERS, SWEEP SERIES

Lakers await the winner of San Antonio--Seattle series

LONDON HALL
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) -

Shaquille O'Neal was bottled up and Kobe Bryant didn't have an open shot, so it was up to Robert Horry to win it for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Horry made a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left to cap a furious last-minute comeback, and the Lakers completed a three-game sweep of the Portland Trail Blazers with a 92-91 victory Sunday.

The Blazers, who have lost seven straight playoff games to the Lakers dating to Game 7 of the 2000 Western Conference finals, appeared to have the game won after Scottie Pippen made one of two free throws to give Portland a 90-86 lead with 17.1 seconds left.

Despite a horrendous second half, the Lakers had some tricks left in their bag. Bryant immediately made a 3-pointer with 12.7 seconds to go, and Pippen shot 1-of-2 from the line after he was fouled.

Rick Fox inbounded the ball to Bryant, who was guarded by the self-proclaimed "Kobe Stopper," Ruben Patterson. Bryant went right and flung the ball to Horry, who was waiting in the corner off to Bryant's right. Pippen was late in getting a hand up, and Horry swished the jumper.

The Blazers had one last chance, but Pippen's inbound pass went over Rasheed Wallace's head, and Horry rebounded with 0.9 seconds left.

Portland was in the game not only because the Lakers shot 41 percent in the second half, but because the Blazers played terrific defense on O'Neal for a change.

He finished with 21 points, but he went into the fourth shooting just 1-for-5 from the field. He was 4-of-6 in the final period. O'Neal actually did most of his damage from the free-throw line, making 11 of 16. He also had 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Wallace had 20 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Blazers, who were beaten 3-0

by the Lakers for the second straight year. The Lakers have eliminated Portland from the postseason five of the last six years.

Portland kept it close despite going more than five minutes without a basket in the fourth. Wallace's short turnaround jumper ended the drought, giving the Blazers an 80-78 lead with 5:34 to play. It was anyone's game until the final minute, when Wallace's follow slam on a miss by Pippen made it 89-84 with 39 seconds left.

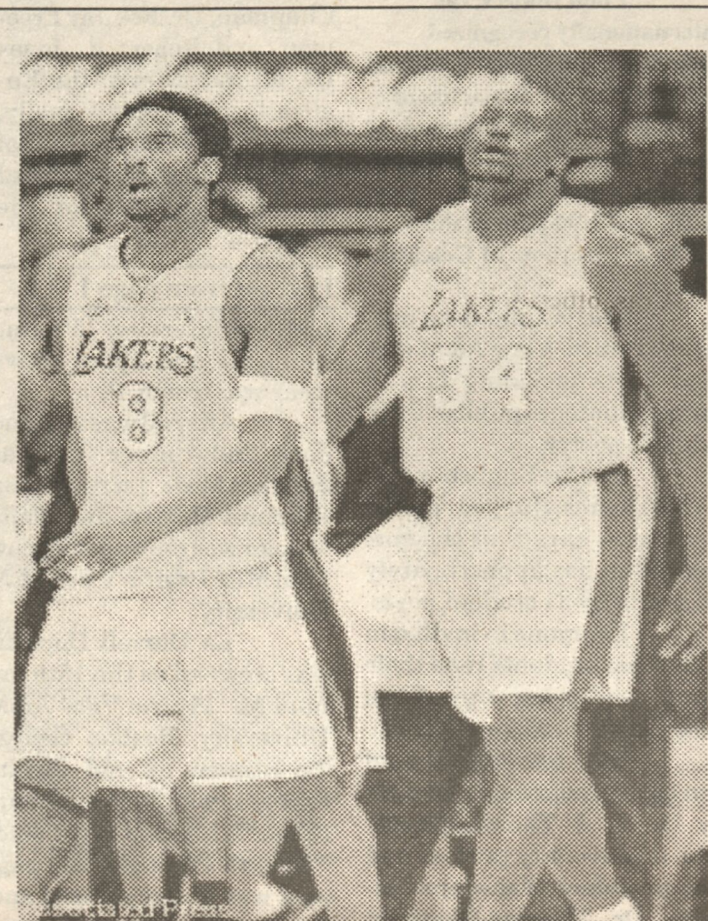
The Lakers didn't make a field goal in 10 attempts over the first 7:15 of the third quarter, but the Blazers didn't capitalize as much as they should have. A free throw by Shawn Kemp ended an 18-3 run and put Portland up by six before Los Angeles came back with three straight baskets.

A fading jumper by Fox with a minute left in the period tied it at 67 entering the fourth.

The Blazers appeared to be in trouble early when they took exactly twice as many shots (28) as their opponent in the first quarter, but only managed a 19-all tie. Portland missed 14 of its first 18 attempts, many heaved up recklessly. Pippen missed an easy dunk, and Bonzi Wells botched a two-handed layup that bounced off the back of the rim.

Portland's strategy of throwing a combination of defenses and defenders at O'Neal worked, however, and the Lakers continued to miss shots and turn the ball over. Derek Anderson's 3-pointer put Portland ahead 37-34 in the second quarter, but the Blazers got just one basket in the last 4:41 of the period.

Los Angeles went on a 16-4 run to close the quarter. Derek Fisher's 3-pointer put the Lakers ahead 50-41, and Bryant capped a frustrating stretch for the Blazers by swatting Pippen's shot at the horn.



Los Angeles Lakers superstars Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal rejoice after Sunday's 92-91 victory over the Blazers.

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for
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'Left Eye' Lopes dies in Honduras car crash

An angel will be remembered

Press Release
Associated Press

ATLANTA-- Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, the effervescent, sometimes volatile member of the Grammy-winning trio TLC, was killed in a car crash while on a humanitarian visit to Honduras, officials said.

Lopes, who would have turned 31 next month, was traveling in the Central America nation when the accident happened Thursday night, Arista Records' spokeswoman Laura Swanson said. "No words can possibly express the sorrow and sadness

I feel for this most devastating loss," said Arista president L.A. Reid, who helped to shape the career of the Atlanta-based R&B group, one of the best-selling female groups in history.

The crash happened near Jutiapa, 150 miles north of Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. "The car rolled for reasons that we still don't know, and that are being investigated," police spokesman Luis Aguilar said.

The other six people in the car were taken to a hospital. She had been

visiting La Ceiba, another Honduran city.

According to U.S. Embassy spokesman in Honduras, Carlos Bakota, Lopes often visited the region and was working with a child development center there. TLC, which also includes Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins and Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, had such hits as "Waterfall," "No Scrubs" and "Unpretty." Their latest album was "FanMail."

"We had all grown up together and were as close as a family," the surviving bandmates said in a statement. "Today we have truly lost our sister." Their songs delivered a message of female empowerment, using sassy, tongue-in-check rhymes.

The lyrics to "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "Waterfalls," and "No Scrubs" were straight from the streets yet poignantly addressed safe sex, AIDS, black on black crime and self respect.

The group made its debut in 1992 with the disc "Ooooooh... On the TLC Tip!" Their unique sound, which paired Watkins and Thomas' vocals with Philadelphia born Lopes' fast-paced, squeaky-

voiced rhymes, along with their baggy wardrobe with condom attached, made them an immediate sensation.

Lopes' nickname came from her habit of replacing one lens of her glasses with a condom during performances. In 1994, the band returned with "Crazy Sexy Cool"-- Lopes was dubbed the "crazy" member of the group, Thomas the "sexy" one and Watkins the "cool one". The quadruple platinum album saw the women abandon their sometimes gimmicky image to evolve into a critically acclaimed group. The disc included the No 1 hit "Crep" and won them the first two of their four Grammy Awards.

The band also soon became known for its flashy, hyper videos and picked up a clutch of MTV Video awards

Lopes was also a host for MTV's daily show, "The Cut." Lopes delivered her line with authority. "No Scrubs," written by members of another Atlanta group, Xscape, drew attention for its take on underachieving men with overactive egos. "I'm looking like class he's looking like trash,"

it says. It even inspired an answer song from the hip-hop group Sporty Thievz, "No Pigeons," which took aim at gold digging women. "You birds wanna take over?" it says. "Getsome cash and a Jenny Jones makeover."

In 2000, after the release of the triple platinum disc "Fanmail," Lopes challenged Watkins and Thomas to put out solo albums and let fans determine who was the best group member.

But her own solo album, "Supernova" was shelved last year when radio stations showed little interest.

The embassy said Lopes had visited Honduras frequently since Hurricane Mitch killed thousands and caused billions of dollars in damage across Central America in 1998.

Lopes a member of the platinum selling group TLC, and a great humanitarian. She will be greatly missed.



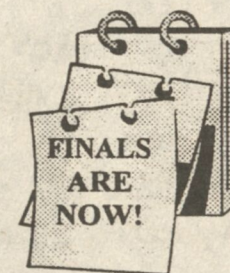
Courtesy of Google Images



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!



Thank you SGA, CAB, PALS, Pan-Hellenic Organizations, CSO, Marching Storm, Symphonic and Jazz Bands, Gilpin Players, Black Foxes, Panther Dolls, Classic Dance Ensemble, University Chorale, Athletic Teams, Cheerleaders, Honor Societies, Forensic Team, BSM, LULAC and ALL other student organizations and activities that give back so much to the student body!

**THE STAFF AND FACULTY OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
CONGRATULATE ALL GRADUATING SENIORS!!!!**

WE WISH OUR UC STUDENTS

**GOOD FINALS
A SAFE RETURN HOME
AND
A GREAT SUMMER**

A SUCCESSFUL SOPHOMORE YEAR

YOU ARE TRULY PROUD PANTHERS!!!!

1. Didn't the beginning of the Miss Prairie View contest look like something out of "In Living Color"? 2. How many girls will have braids by the end of the week? 3. Why does the pastor at St. Peters curse during his sermons? 4. How many students can afford summer school? 5. Why did the fan club leave so early at the Miss Prairie View pageant? 6. Isn't it about time for the boys with the short neck braids to cut them? 7. If they haven't grown yet, GIVE UP? 8. When is PV going to get a Miss PV that can actually participate in another pageant? 9. Isn't obesity out of season? 10. What do you get when you put ignorance and a bad attitude together? 11. What is the purpose of a pageant if winning only the private interview makes you win? 12. What happened to the fire station that was on campus? 13. Why were the EMS people working by flashlight at the pageant? 14. Did PV forget to pay the light bill? 15. Why is the village pretending to lower the rent? 16. With all that protesting, how many are they actually going to move off campus? 17. Hasn't the race for Mayor become worse than the Clinton scandal? 18. How many people are going to have their graduation party at T-Town? 19. Are you happy now that these questions aren't funny? 20. What do you think?

Please bring your comments to Rm.105 Harrington Science or email panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther. This section of the Panther is printed for entertainment only. Some questions are fictitious. Please don't take these personally.



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